

Application No.: 10/579,803  
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111  
Reply to Office Action dated July 20, 2009  
November 20, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A recording medium access device for accessing a recording medium having a plurality of ~~functions~~ areas and an area selecting part for selecting one of the areas based on a switching command, comprising:

a switching part that can be operated from ~~[[the]]~~ an outside; and

a card controller for issuing a switching command to switch an ~~operation area~~ area of ~~[[said]]~~ an attached recording medium ~~to the attached recording medium~~ according to an operation ~~[[to]]~~ from said switching part.

Claim 2 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 1, wherein said switching part is a switch part for holding the switched state.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The recording medium access device according to claim 2, further comprising a determination

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part for detecting a state of said switching part at initialization of said recording medium or said recording medium access device and determining whether or not an operation to said recording medium is switched, wherein

said card controller issues the switching command to said recording medium according to a determination result of said determination part.

Claim 4 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 1, wherein

said switching part is a switch part for inputting switching.

Claim 5 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 1,

wherein said recording medium access device is an adapter attached to an information processing device for relaying a signal between said information processing device and said recording medium.

Claim 6 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 5, wherein

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said adapter is used in coupling a plurality of adapters to each other, and

each adapter has a switching part for independently switching an operation of said recording medium.

Claim 7 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 5, wherein

said recording medium has an authentication area requiring mutual authentication with an information processing device, and

said card controller issues a switching command after completion of the mutual authentication.

Claim 8 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 1, wherein

said switching part has a plurality of switching states.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The recording medium access device according to claim 8, wherein

said switching part is a switch part for holding the switching states, and,

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said card controller detects the switching states of a plurality of said switching parts in a predetermined priority order.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The recording medium access device according to claim 1, wherein

said card controller gives priority to setting of the switching part ~~else~~ to either of said recording medium or said information processing device over other switching parts.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The recording medium access device according to claim 5, further comprising a notification determination part for determining whether or not to inform to said information processing device that an operation of said recording medium has been switched, wherein

when determination is made that notification is required by said notification determination part, said card controller informs that the operation of said recording medium has been switched to said information processing device.

Claim 12 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 11, wherein

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said notification determination part judges necessity of notification on the basis of setting of said information processing device.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The recording medium access device according to claim 5, further comprising an area information storage part for storing operation state of said recording medium therein, wherein

when said switching part is operated, said card controller compares area information stored in said area information storage part and issues a switching command to said recording medium if a change has been occurred.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The recording medium access device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a state information storage part for holding state information of said recording medium; and

a display part for displaying an operation state of said information recording medium.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The recording medium access device according to claim 1, further comprising a state

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information storage part for storing state information of said information recording medium therein, wherein

when said switching part is operated, said card controller compares state stored in said state information storage part and issues a switching command to said recording medium if the change has been occurred.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A recording medium access method in a recording medium access device for accessing a recording medium having a plurality of ~~functions~~ areas and an area selecting part for selecting one of the areas based on a switching command, comprising:

a switching step of detecting an input operation from [[the]] an outside; and

a card control step of issuing a switching command to switch an ~~operation~~ area of [[said]] an attached recording medium ~~to the attached recording medium~~ when said switching step is operated.

Claim 17 (Original): The recording medium access method according to claim 16, wherein

said switching step holds the switched state.

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Claim 18 (Currently amended): The recording medium access method according to claim 17, further comprising a determination step of detecting the state of said switching step at initialization of said recording medium or said recording medium access device and determining whether or not an operation to said recording medium is switched, wherein

said card control step issues the switching command to said recording medium according to the determination result of said determination part.

Claim 19 (Original): The recording medium access method according to claim 16, wherein

said switching step is a step of inputting switching.

Claim 20 (Original): The recording medium access method according to claim 16, wherein  
said recording medium access device is an adapter attached to an information processing device for relaying a signal between said information processing device and said recording medium.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The recording medium access method according to claim 20, wherein

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said adapter is used in coupling a plurality of adapters to each other, and

each adapter has a switching step of independently switching an operation of said recording medium.

Claim 22 (Original): The recording medium access device according to claim 20, wherein

said recording medium has an authentication area requiring mutual authentication with an information processing device, and

said card control step issues a switching command after completion of the mutual authentication.

Claim 23 (Original): The recording medium access method according to claim 16, wherein

said switching step is a step of inputting by a plurality of switch parts for holding the switching states, and,

said card control step of detecting state of a plurality of said switching parts in a predetermined priority order.

Claim 24 (Original): The recording medium access method according to claim 20, wherein further comprising a notification determination step of determining whether or not the fact that



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the operation of said recording medium has been switched is  
informed to said information processing device, wherein

when determination is made that notification is required by  
said notification determination part, said card control step  
informs the fact that the operation of said recording medium has  
been switched to said information processing device.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The recording medium  
access method according to claim 24, wherein

said notification determination step judges necessity of  
notification on the basis of setting of said information  
processing device.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The recording medium access  
method according to claim 20, further comprising an area  
information storage step of storing operation state of said  
recording medium, wherein

when said switching part is operated, said card control step  
compares area information stored in said area information storage  
step and issues a switching command to said recording medium if a  
change has been occurred.

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Claim 27 (Currently amended): The recording medium access method according to claim 16, further comprising:

a state information storage step of holding state information of said recording medium; and

a display step of displaying an operation state of said information recording medium.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The recording medium access method according to claim 16, further comprising a state information storage step of storing the state information of said information recording medium therein, wherein

when input is made in said switching step, said card control step compares state stored in said state information storage step and issues a switching command said recording medium if the change has been occurred.

Claim 29 (New): A recording medium access device for accessing a recording medium having a plurality of functions comprising:

a switching part that can be operated from an outside; and

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a card controller for issuing a switching command to switch an operation of an attached recording medium according to an operation from said switching part;

wherein said recording medium access device is an adapter attached to an information processing device for relaying a signal between said information processing device and said recording medium;

wherein said adapter is used in coupling a plurality of adapters to each other, and

each adapter has a switching part for independently switching an operation of said recording medium.